

CBI investigation into purchase of railway cranes

† 3926. SHRI BRATIN SENGUPTA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the railways had caused CBI investigation into purchase of cranes, on the basis of the report of the CAG of India;
- (b) if so, the conclusions thereof;
- (c) the points highlighted by the CAG of India in his report; and
- (d) whether these suggestions have been fully implemented; if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) In view of specific observations of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India in their report No. 9 of 1999 (Railways), on the procurement of cranes, it had been decided to entrust the details investigation to central Bureau of Investigation in March' 2000.

(b) The matter is being investigated by CBI.

(c) As per the CAG report No. 9 of 1999 tabled in the Parliament, the CAG has contended that the import of 140T crane was resorted to by Railways without exploring indigenous sources, transfer of technology alongwith supply contract were not in any way adding to the capabilities of Indian Railways to manufacture cranes, rejection of cheaper offer resulted in higher expenditure and delay in absorption of technology imported in 1988 led the Railways to keep away from the recent crane technology, etc.

(d) All the issues raised by CAG in their report have been replied as per the laid down procedure. No specific suggestions were indicated in the report.

Losses to Konkan Railways

3927. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.